

TEXAS NAVY SERVING THE  
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2013*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 1836, Texas declared her independence from Mexico, and on April 21, 1836 at the Battle of San Jacinto—the most important military victory in Texas history—Texas actually became a Republic all unto herself and remained so for nine glorious years.

On the marshy plains of San Jacinto, the victory over Santa Anna and the Mexican Army under General Sam Houston and the Boys can be credited not only to the Texas Army on land but also to the forces patrolling the Gulf of Mexico—the first Texas Navy.

The Texas Navy was established on November 25, 1835 to protect supply lines between Texas and New Orleans from Mexican naval ships. A tiny fleet of four schooners, named the Independence, Brutus, Invincible and Liberty, were purchased to protect and supply the new Republic. The Navy had its own Commodore, Captain Charles Hawkins, appointed by the Republic's own president, David G. Burnet.

Commodore Hawkins was born in New York in 1802. At the age of 16, Hawkins enlisted in the United States Navy as a midshipman and began his military career in the Atlantic before transferring to the West Indies. On board a ship in the West Indies, Hawkins met Commodore David Porter, a hero of the War of 1812. Commodore Porter got himself into some mischief after invading a town in Puerto Rico in 1825 and was court-martialed. He resigned, chose to go command the Mexican Navy fleet and recruited the feisty, young sailor Hawkins to join him in the Mexican Navy.

Hawkins spent the next several years as a Mexican naval commander, fighting against Spaniard ships opposing Mexico's Independence in the Gulf of Mexico. The Mexican Navy soon began to have doubts about American officers serving aboard their ships; these worries caused Hawkins to resign and move to Texas in 1828. Once in Texas, Hawkins worked as a river captain on the Chattahoochee.

Hawkins' path to the Texas Navy started when he met General Sam Houston in San Felipe. Houston was impressed with Hawkins' experience and his desire to serve as navy captain to the new Texas Republic. Houston referred Hawkins to Governor Henry Smith, who then sent Hawkins to New Orleans to begin command over the Independence. At the age of 34, as Commander of the Texas Navy, Hawkins sailed the Independence to the Gulf of Mexico to patrol the coast between Galveston and New Orleans.

Meanwhile, General Sam Houston was busy building the Texas Army to defeat Santa Anna near the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou at Lynch's Ferry. On the afternoon of April 21st, General Sam and the Boys, 700 Texas Freedom fighters, marched double time, in a single line of independence—taking on a professional army over twice their size.

Santa Anna's army, caught napping, was routed. Most of the enemy was killed or wounded. The rest were captured or disappeared. The victory was stunning. The rest,

as they say, is Texas history. But one of the most important factors in that Texas victory, mentioned briefly by some historians, was the maritime activity and success of the first Texas Navy.

Commodore Hawkins and his brave crew of gutsy, scrappy sailors changed the course of Texas history on April 21, 1836. The Texas Navy helped win Texas independence by preventing Mexican ships from supplying Santa Anna, seizing gunpowder on Mexican ships and delivering aid to General Sam Houston's army. The heroic acts of the first Texas Navy resulted in one of the largest land transfers in world history and gave way to a new independent nation—the Republic of Texas.

Texas still has an "Honorary" Texas Navy. In the 1980s, the Governor of Texas appointed me as an Admiral in the Texas Navy. (Everyone in the Navy is an Admiral.) During my tenure as a judge, I ordered offenders to be "enlisted" in the "Texas Navy." The probationers were skilled welders, painters, plumbers and electricians. They were required to help in the restoration efforts of the Battleship Texas. This became another effective tool that both served the public and the probationer—a few went on to be hired by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The probationers became a part of the history of the great ship "Texas". After being dry docked in Galveston in the 80's, many much needed repairs were made by different organizations and thousands of volunteers—all to help preserve the Battleship Texas.

The Texas Navy is one of the unique historical traditions of our great State.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING COLONEL ROBERT S.  
CRANSTON

## HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2013*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of World War II veteran and military broadcaster, and a dear friend, Colonel Robert S. Cranston, of Bedford County, Virginia.

In November of 1942, Colonel Cranston signed up to serve. At 22, he was promoted to sergeant major of the 51st Signal Battalion and by 1943 he was named a second lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps. He bravely fought in Normandy following the D-Day invasion and was later wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. And he served side by side with General Eisenhower as he commanded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Col. Cranston dedicated his life to serving our nation and to keeping our troops and all Americans informed through broadcast media. Our community has suffered a great loss and I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the life of Col. Cranston for his selflessness, courage, and sacrifice and for his important role in history as a source of information to our men and women in uniform fighting abroad to defend our freedoms at home.

## REINTRODUCTION OF THE HUMPHREY HAWKINS FULL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT

## HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have reintroduced the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013. It is my hope that with the reintroduction of this bill, Congress will begin to examine the idea that the federal government has a significant role to play in putting America back to work, especially during our current economic downturn. Noted economists have shown that the private sector alone will not be able to create a full employment economy in the foreseeable future.

The Federal Government must use its full authority and powers to put Americans back to work. In our nation, we have far too many people desperately seeking a full-time job. These people are veterans, construction workers, young men and women, and those who have lost their jobs to unfair foreign competition. We know the financial pressures and personal hardships that result from being unemployed for long periods of time: the loss of one's dignity, housing and food insecurity, loss of health insurance, homelessness, marital problems, and the inability to care for one's self or family.

During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt struck a New Deal that put millions of Americans back to work building roads, schools, community centers, dams, bridges, parks, and electrification systems. In this program, many women were employed constructing blankets for our nation's hospitals, and our troops who fought in World War II.

President Roosevelt was resolute in the idea that every American who wanted a job should be able to have one. I also share this view. Help provide an unemployed man or woman with a job, and their lives come together, and they regain their dignity and sense of self-worth. People just do better when they are working. It is just that simple.

There is no reason why America cannot have a 21st Century New Deal, where unemployed Americans become gainfully employed restoring our communities, assisting people in need, and repairing our crumbling infrastructure. This is what the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013 seeks to accomplish.

Under the Act, the Department of Labor would work collaboratively with local and state governments, non-profits, and the private sector to fund community-based "fast track" jobs. This work could include renovating housing and schools, weatherizing homes, fixing our aging infrastructure, expanding access to broadband and wireless Internet, neighborhood beautification projects, or other community initiatives in the health and education sectors.

It is apparent to me that the next wave of significant job growth will be in the green jobs and clean energy sectors. The Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013 would help pay for the training of workers to install solar panels in houses and buildings, or manufacture wind turbines, electric batteries, and electric cars.